Setting up of surveillance centres in the country

4818. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up 563 surveillance centres all over the country in next five years for immediate reporting of infectious diseases;

(b) if so, the break-up of these centres, region-wise;

(c) whether the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Chandigarh is proposed to be made a nodal surveillance centre for the northern region; and

(d) if so, the details of steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Under the 10th Five Year Plan, a Project Implementation Plan, integrating various activities involving disease surveillance is under preparation so as to strengthen the existing surveillance system throughout the country at the District, State and National levels and to build up additional capacities for effective communication and technology upgradation of laboratories etc, ensure involvement of public and private sector institutions, private practitioners and NGOs in the process of effective implementation of disease surveillance programme. This would integrate non-communicable diseases also in the programme, develop proper urban surveillance system, and optimize the utilization of available resources and to bring about effective inter-sectoral cooperation among various agencies in the Health and Non-Health Sector. Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh would be an important institute for supporting the disease surveillance programme, especially in the Northern States.

Eradication of leprosy

4819. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the efforts made by Government in the past two decades, the country is still far behind its poorer neighbours like Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka in eliminating leprosy;

(b) if so, whether this was revealed by the World Health Organisation;

(c) whether other South-East Asian countries like Indonesia, Thailand,

Myanmar and Nepal too are ahead of India in their effort of eradicating the dreaded disease;

(d) if so, whether India has targeted Eradication of leprosy by 2005; and

(e) whether the main problems being faced by Government are surfacing of hidden cases particularly in two States Chattisgarh and Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Who has informed that the Prevalence Rate (PR) for leprosy in India is 3.7 per 10,000 population whereas the PRs for the neighbouring countries are as under:

(i)	Bangladesh	— 0.67
(ii)	Bhutan	— 0.77
(iii)	Maldives	— 0.79
(iv)	Sri Lanka	— 0.61

(c) Other South East Asian countries namely Indonesia, Thailand have PRS of less than 1/ 10,000 population while Nepal and Myanmar are still endemic with PRs of 3.40 and 2.37 per 10,000 population respectively. However, these countries are much smaller both in size and population as compared to India.

(d) India has targeted for elimination of leprosy by end of March, 2004.

(e) Detection of hidden cases is one of the main problems in these States as well as in the States of Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. To overcome this, active search under leprosy Elimination Campaign is carried out in these States.

Promotion of Homeopathic herbal medicines

4820. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating a comprehensive programme to promote Homoeopathic herbal medicines in the country;

(b) if so, the details of herbal medicines found in our country;

(c) the efforts made, so far in this regard; and

(d) funds earmarked for this purpose?